

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A tape mounting system for mounting a bag containing a product to a tape, comprising:

a packaging apparatus that is configured to produce and discharge the bag by packaging a product therein;

a tape holding mechanism that is configured to hold the tape substantially horizontally and conveys the tape in a substantially horizontal direction;

a mounting mechanism that is configured to mount the bag to the tape by attaching a portion of the bag to the tape;

a bag transport mechanism that is configured to transport the bag discharged from said packaging apparatus toward said mounting mechanism, said bag transport mechanism configured to grasp the bag and maintain the bag in the horizontal orientation ~~the inclination of the bag in the vertical plane~~ while the bag is being transported toward said mounting mechanism; and

a control unit operatively coupled to said tape holding mechanism, said mounting mechanism, and said bag transport mechanism, and configured to control said tape holding mechanism, said mounting mechanism, and said bag transport mechanism such that the portion of the bag vertically overlaps the tape while the portion of the bag is attached to the tape, and that the tape holding mechanism conveys the bag attached to the tape in the substantially horizontal direction.

2. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the tape is made of a material that is more flexible than a material of which the bag is made.

3. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said mounting mechanism has a heater, and  
said mounting mechanism is configured to attach the portion of the bag to the tape by heating said heater.

4. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said mounting mechanism has a pressing member, and

said control unit is configured to control said pressing member to press the portion of the bag toward said tape holding mechanism, such that the portion of the bag and the tape vertically overlap while the portion of the bag is attached to the tape.

5. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein the tape is rendered adhesive at least at a part to which the portion of the bag is attached, and

said mounting mechanism is configured to attach the portion of the bag to the tape by pressing the portion against the tape.

6. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said mounting mechanism further includes an adhesive application device that applies an adhesive substance to the tape, and

said mounting mechanism is configured to attach the portion of the bag to the tape via the adhesive substance.

7. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:

a product placing mechanism that is configured to place the bag onto said mounting mechanism,

said control unit being configured to control said product placing mechanism such that the portion of the bag vertically overlaps the tape while the portion of the bag is attached to the tape.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said product transport mechanism and said tape holding mechanism are spaced apart in a width direction.

10. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said product transport mechanism and said tape holding mechanism are spaced apart in the vertical direction.

11. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 7, wherein said product placing mechanism has a grasping member that is configured to grasp the bag, or a suction member that is configured to hold the bag by suction.

12. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 7, further comprising:

a product transfer mechanism that is configured to transfer said product placing mechanism toward said mounting mechanism.

13. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 12, wherein said product transfer mechanism has a product orientation change mechanism that is configured to change an orientation of the bag.

14. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 7, wherein said product placing mechanism is configured to apply pressure to the bag, such that said control unit performs a seal check of the bag.

15. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:

an imaging unit that is configured to produce an image signal of the bag before the bag is mounted onto the tape; and

said control unit is configured to control said product transfer mechanism based on the image signal from said imaging unit.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein said tape holding mechanism is disposed in a linearly extended manner from said product transport mechanism and is spaced apart from the product transport mechanism in the vertical direction.

18. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 4, wherein said mounting mechanism has a heater, and

said control unit is configured to control said pressing member such that said pressing member and said heater sandwich the portion of the bag and the tape to attach them together.

19. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 7, wherein said product placing mechanism further includes a weight detection unit configured to detect a weight of the product.

20. (Previously Presented) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 14, wherein said control unit is configured to control said product placing mechanism to place the bag onto said mounting mechanism only if the bag is not a defective bag based on the seal check.

21. (New) A tape mounting system for mounting a bag containing a product to a tape, comprising:

a packaging apparatus that is configured to produce and discharge the bag by packaging a product therein;

a tape holding mechanism that is configured to hold the tape substantially horizontally and conveys the tape in a substantially horizontal direction;

a mounting mechanism that is configured to mount the bag to the tape by attaching a portion of the bag to the tape;

a bag transport mechanism that is configured to transport the bag discharged from said packaging apparatus toward said mounting mechanism, said bag transport mechanism configured to grasp the bag and maintain the inclination of the bag in the horizontal plane while the bag is being transported toward said mounting mechanism; and

a control unit operatively coupled to said tape holding mechanism, said mounting mechanism, and said bag transport mechanism, and configured to control said tape holding mechanism, said mounting mechanism, and said bag transport mechanism such that the portion of the bag vertically overlaps the tape while the portion of the bag is attached to the tape, and that the tape holding mechanism conveys the bag attached to the tape in the substantially horizontal direction.

22. (New) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein

the bag transport mechanism configured to grasp a surface of the bag and maintain the inclination of the bag in the horizontal plane while the bag is being transported toward said mounting mechanism.

23. (New) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
the bag transport mechanism comprises a chuck configured to grasp the bag.

24. (New) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 1, wherein  
the bag transport mechanism comprises a plurality of grasping members configured to grasp corners of the bag.

25. (New) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 21, wherein  
the bag transport mechanism is configured to grasp a surface of the bag and maintain the inclination of the bag in the horizontal plane while the bag is being transported toward said mounting mechanism.

26. (New) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 21, wherein  
the bag transport mechanism comprises a chuck configured to grasp the bag.

27. (New) The tape mounting system as recited in Claim 21, wherein  
the bag transport mechanism comprises a plurality of grasping members configured to grasp corners of the bag.